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DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

YEAR 1952.

TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my report on the health of the Dulverton Rural District during the year 1952.

The headings are those formulated by the Ministry of Health.

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Chairman:-

Mr.C.H.Abbot,The Cottage,Dulverton.

Vice-Chairman:-

Mr.J.S.W.Arthur,Coppleham,Winsford.

Mr.F.King.	Sir R.Waley-Cohen.
Mr.R.B.Vellacott.	Mr.C.J.Purchase.
The Hon.Mrs.Herbert.	Mr.F.T.Barrow.
Mrs.Yandle.	Major J.L.Lindsay.
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Mr.I.J.Kemp.	Mr.E.B.Page.
Miss M.W.P.Aston.	Mr.R.L.V.Wilkes.
Mr.P.Bawden.	Mr.F.Partridge.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:-

R.W.Halse,Esq.,Solicitor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:-

(a) Part-time M.O.H:-

Dr.G.Nicholson,M.D.,D.P.H.,F.R.C.S.,E.

District M.O. and Public Vaccinator: Dr.B.W.Mc.Kinney.

(b) Surveyor & Inspector,etc:-

H.A.Jewell,Esq., A.R.San.I.,M.Inst.S.E.,Diploma University S.W.(Meat)

Assistant Inspector:-

G.O.Jones,Cert R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	78,159
Population 1952 (estimated)	5,550
Inhabited Houses	1,376
Number of inhabited houses as per rate books	1,396
Number of families or seperate occupiers	1,396
Rateable value (reduced)	£19,050
Sum produced by 1d rate	£73.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

Good. The vast majority of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits; they appear to be exceptionally healthy in consequence.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1952.

	TOTAL	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate)	74	36	38	Birth
" " (Illegitimate)	1	1	-	Rate= 16.0
Deaths	57	31	26	Death
Still Births	2	1	1	Rate= 12.9

(Corrected Death Rate= 10.5)
(Corrected Birth Rate= 17.6)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER AGE OF ONE YEAR.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths from Measles	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-

Number of women dying of, or consequence of, childbirth. Nil.

The statistics for England and Wales were - Rate per 1000 of population:-

Births - Live Births	15.3
Births - Still Births	0.35
Deaths	11.5
Infant Mortality per 1000 births (under age of 1 year)	27.6

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There are 11 certified T.T. dairies in the district and the standard of the samples obtained from them have been satisfactory.
Samples for tubercle bacilli were taken at regular intervals from different parts of the district and all were found free from infection.
The examination of milk for tubercle bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory.

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.
Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs is submitted to the County Laboratory at Taunton.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During 1952 Dulverton District had cases of Notifiable Disease other than Tuberculosis.

VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations carried out by the M.O.H. during 1952 - Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
Diptheria.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	22	-	-
Pneumonia.....	1	-	4
Other Diseases notifiable locally:-			
Chicken pox.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-

Anthrax:- Male Age 35. This case of anthrax occurred in a Veterinary Surgeon who was infected while examining post mortem material.

Deaths from Cancer:- Stomach 3; other regions 7. Total 10.

Other Deaths.

	M.	F.
Malignant Neoplasms, stomach.	1.	2.
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	6	4
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	3
Coronary Disease, angina	3	3
Hypertension, with heart disease	1	0
Other heart disease	5	4
Other circulatory disease	0	1
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Hiperplasis of prostate	1	0
Congenital malformation	0	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	3
All other accidents	2	0
Suicide	1	0
All causes.....	31	26

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken.

HOUSING.

In the past year 16 new houses have been completed and work on further houses proceeds at a satisfactory rate.
Private building licences issued - Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Nursing in the Home.
   (a) Nursing is provided by the Somerset District Nursing Association. There is no co-ordination with the Sanitary Authority.
   (b) Infectious Diseases. No provision.
2. Midwives.
   None employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. Number practising in the area - 6.

3. Arrangements for the carrying out of Pathological and Bacteriological Investigation, Analysis of Foodstuffs,etc., are made with the Somerset County Laboratory.
4. Hospitals.
There are no hospitals of any description within the Area. Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases - No change.
5. Maternity and Nursing Homes.
No action has been taken under the Nursing Home Act of 1927.
6. Cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Authority.
7. Institutional Provisions for the care of Mental Defectives - None in the Area.
8. Diptheria Immunisations and Vaccinations Procedure administered by County Council and carried out at a clinic or by the local doctors at their surgeries.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.
To date nine of the largest villages have main supply.
Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector in various parishes during the year and the results of these are set out in his report.

2. Drainage.
Dulverton,Brushford and Exford have modern works.
Winsford and Brompton Regis will be sewered as soon as circumstances permit.

3. Rivers and Streams Pollution.
No action was considered necessary.

4. Closet Accommodation.
Improvements in the scattered cottages are constantly being made and every encouragement is given to do this. Many new septic tanks have been installed during the year.

5. Schools.
(1) Kingsbrompton,Dulverton,Exford,Withypool and Brushford are the only schools having flush lavatories. Exton however has a piped water supply.There is still room for improvement in the sanitary arrangements to the remainder.
(2) Public Cleansing. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(4) Eradication of Bedbugs. No action has been required up to the present.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases during 1952.				Mortality.			
Age Periods.	Pulmonary. M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	F.	Pulmonary. M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age not known	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health(Prevention of Tuberculosis)Regulations,1952. - No action.
Public Health Act,1925(Sec.62). No action taken.

The year 1952 was an outstanding one by reason of the extremely severe floods which,in spite of the heavy material damage to buildings,sewage works,etc., occasioned no outbreak of disease.

My thanks are due to Mr.Jewell for his assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,
GEORGE NICHOLSON,M.O.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dulverton Rural District Council:-

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my report from the 1st January to 31st December(inclusive)1952,in accordance with Article 19(12) of the Sanitary Officers Order,1922.

Normally the staff at the disposal of the Council is strained to the limit in order to keep all the services running efficiently, but the floods of August 15th and 16th placed many additional duties and hours on them. I am pleased to record that,without exception,every one gave of his best.

The offices of this department were completely washed out and the records and documents kept over a period of the last 20 years were lost. It is therefore impossible to give accurate figures in all instances,but every endeavour has been made to verify those given.

Most of the details of a housing survey made during 1952 were lost. This will entail another inspection to bring the true housing position up to date. It did appear,however,from observations made in the course of the original survey that a large number of properties were in need of repair. In the case of cottage properties with a restricted rent it is doubtful if many owners were in a position to pay for these owing to the present day high cost of labour and material. A return of the Housing(Rural Workers)Act or something similar would help considerably in this respect and relieve local authorities from the heavy burden of new building.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Defective cess pits	9
Offensive Accumulations	5
Fouled Watercourses	4
Dirty Premises	5
Bad or Suspected Water Supply	18
Overcrowding	3
Animals kept in unfit places	5
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	9
Housing Complaints	111
Miscellaneous	78
Sewage and Drainage	29
Total	274

Other than cowsheds. In addition to those mentioned under "ousing Defects:- 178 visits were made in connection with these and all were remedied without the necessity of issuing Statutory Notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Meat. All slaughterhouses in the district are now closed,slaughtering being done in the Central Abbattoir at Minehead. Regular inspections are made of meat arriving at the Butcher shops.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

Routine Visits	57
Occasional Slaughtering	26

MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

	Whole Carcase.	Fore Qtrs.	Hind Qtrs.	Head.	Livers.	Lungs.	Heart.	Spleen.
Bovines.	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Calves.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep.	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-

Milk and Dairies.
The inspection of cowsheds and dairies is now the responsibility of the County and Agricultural Committee. From visits made in the course of other duties it would appear there is still some room for considerable improvement to buildings and general cleanliness. Under the grant aided scheme water supplies are being improved at a reasonable rate.

WATER SUPPLY.

All main water schemes now under the control of my Council are visited at least once weekly. All the larger villages now have a piped water supply. Relaying of mains at Dulverton, Winsford and Brompton Regis were completed during 1952.

SCAVENGING.

The Council make regular collections of house refuse throughout the district, all of which is taken to a central incinerator at Dulverton.

HOUSING.

The rate of progress on new housing has been satisfactory. To date 92 new local authority houses have been completed at Dulverton and outlying villages and 17 private enterprise dwellings. The average price per dwelling was £1237.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE.

Main works are installed at Dulverton, Brushford and Exford and it is hoped in the future to submit schemes for Winsford, Withypool and Brompton Regis.
A great deal of damage was caused to the Works in operation by the floods but all are now in good order.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health enquiries into all cases of Infectious Diseases were at once carried out.

Number of premises visited.....	6
Number of rooms disinfected.....	6

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Petroleum Licences granted during the year.....	46
Amount collected.....	£21.10.0d.

PEST ACT, 1946.

The Council employ a full time Inspector-Operator. Every farm in the district is inspected at regular intervals and it is found this procedure tends to keep the obligations of the occupier under the Act well to the fore. Without frequent servicing the objects of the Act would be defeated and everything is done by this Authority to see that this is carried out.
From experience, in this area, it would in my opinion be an advantage if the Local Authority could carry out the actual servicing of farms, as I feel they would carry it out more efficiently than is done at present.
Only industrial premises and dwelling houses are now serviced by the Council's operator.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

Housing Inspections.....	424	
Housing re-inspections.....	311	
Inspection of meat and other foods.....	83	
Factories and Workshops.....	12	
Infectious Diseases.....	6	
Visits in connection with Nuisances and Complaints.....	38	
Visits in connection with rats and mice.....	1876	
Miscellaneous visits.....	73	
(a) Water Sampling.....	44	
(b) Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal, etc.....	492	Total- 3359

CONCLUSION.

I desire once again to express my thanks to the Chairman, Councillors and Medical Officer for their consideration and support given to me during the past year, also to the Clerk and his staff for their co-operation in the work of this department.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HORACE A. JEWELL.

Surveyor & Inspector.

Dulverton,
Somerset.

January, 1953.